Ecosystem Restoration Program

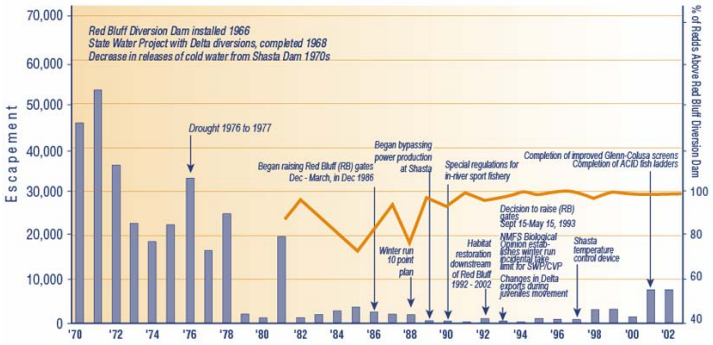
Ecosystem Restoration Program Objectives

The goal of the Ecosystem Restoration Program is to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats and natural processes to support stable, self-sustaining populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species through and adaptive management process.

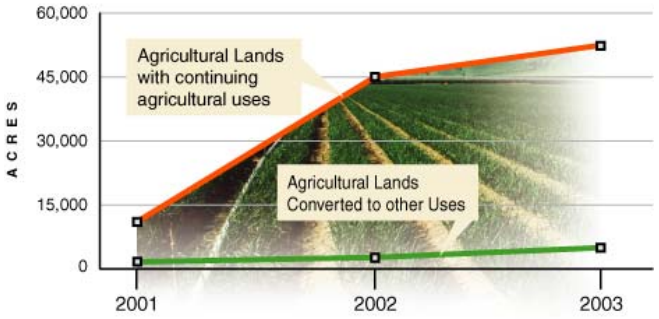
The CALFED Program identified six strategic goals for the ERP to meet over the 30-year course of the Bay-Delta Program that include: Endangered and Other At-risk Species and Native Biotic Communities, Ecological Processes, Harvested Species, Habitats, Nonnative Invasive Species and Water and Sediment Quality.

Winter Run Chinook Escapement: One of the strategic goals of the ERP is to achieve recovery of at-risk native species dependent on the Bay-Delta system. [In the graph to the right the number of adult salmon escaping mortality and successfully returning each year to spawn are shown for the Sacramento River.] Increasing the escapement number indicates an improvement in ecosystem health. Ongoing efforts for infrastructure improvements, habitat restoration and water management should contribute to increased numbers of salmon in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Wildlife Friendly Farming: While addressing the six strategic goals, the Ecosystem Restoration program has made progress on its commitments to work cooperatively with farmers and ranchers and other local partners. The program's record shows that continued efforts are being made to minimize or avoid impacts on existing land uses. The graph at the right shows the acres of agricultural land used for wildlife friendly agriculture and acres converted to other uses. Conservation easements with farmers and ranchers provide ecosystem benefits on 53,000 acres of land while the program has converted less than 3,500 acres of agricultural land to other types of wildlife habitat.



This reports the number of winter run Chinook salmon escaping mortality and successfully returning each year to spawn in the Sacramento River.



Agricultural lands used to meet ecosystem restoration goals that are either continuing with agricultural operations or converted to other uses.

Milestone Assessment: To gauge progress toward the strategic goal for recovery of at-risk species, the endangered species regulatory agencies identified 119 milestones in 2000 that were expected to be achieved by the end of the 7-year-long Stage 1. In 2004, the ERP implementing agencies assessed accomplishments to date and found that progress toward nearly 80% of the milestones was on or ahead of schedule. The table below lists accomplishments to date for some of the quantitative target categories. The information is sorted by region and includes an analysis of the percent complete. Achieving the milestones is an indication that ERP is investing in actions that are expected to contribute toward recovering at-risk species.

Milestones Assessment

Bay Region

Target Category	Target (MSCS, ERPP Vol. 1)	Accomplishment to Date	Percent Complete
Riparian Habitat			
Miles	15 miles	3 miles	20%
Perennial Aquatic Habitat	400 acres	400 acres	Completed
Vern Pool Habitat	1,100 acres	1,350 acres	Completed
Fish Screen Consolidation or Screen	108 diversions	7 diversions	7%

Sacramento River Region

Target Category	Target (MSCS, ERPP Vol. 1)	Accomplishment to Date	Percent Complete
Wildlife Friendly Agriculture	298,646	298,203	Completed
Riparian Habitat			
Miles	40 miles	17 miles	85%
Seasonal Wetlands	4,325 acres	50,868 acres	Completed
Fish Screens			
>250 cfs	38 diversions	21 diversions	55%
<250 cfs	226 diversions	85 diversions	38%

San Joaquin River Region

Target Category	Target (MSCS, ERPP Vol. 1)	Accomplishment to Date	Percent Complete
Wildlife Friendly Agriculture	2,293-3,822 acres	0 acres	--
Fresh Emergent Wetlands (nontidal)	100 acres	500 acres	Completed
Perennial Grasslands	1,000 acres	0 acres	--
Riparian Habitat			
Miles	12 miles	5 miles	42%
Acres	303 acres	6,569 acres	Completed
Fish Screens			
>250 cfs	118 diversions	0 diversions	--
<250 cfs	2 diversions	1 diversion	50%

Delta Region

Target Category	Target (MSCS, ERPP Vol. 1)	Accomplishment to Date	Percent Complete
Wildlife Friendly Agriculture	6,000-11,250 acres	11,891 acres	Completed
Delta Slough	15 miles	1 mile	>1%
Fresh Emergent Wetlands (non tidal)			
North Delta	500 acres	142 acres	28%
East Delta	250 acres	0	--
South Delta	1,000 acres	0	--
Central and West Delta	2,500 acres	224 acres	9%
Tidal Emergent Wetland			
North Delta	500 acres	4,760 acres	Completed
East Delta	500 acres	32 acres	6%
South Delta	4,000 acres	0 acres	--
Central and West Delta	5,000 acres	259 acres	5%
Inland Dune Scrub	50 acres	101 acres	Completed
Midchannel Islands and Shoals			
Channel Islands	125 acres	5 acres	>1%
Shoals	125 acres	0 acres	--
Riparian Habitat			
Miles	42-80 miles	71 miles	89%
Acres	300 acres	5,182 acres	Completed
Seasonal Wetlands	1,000-1,500 acres	1,350 acres	90%
Tidal Perennial Aquatic			
North Delta	500 acres	0 acres	--
East Delta	250 acres	0 acres	--
South Delta	500 acres	0 acres	--
Central and West Delta	750 acres	426 acres	57%
Fish Screen Consolidation or Screen	50 diversions	29 diversions	58%

Next Steps:

- Continue assessing progress on an annual basis toward achieving the 119 milestones identified in the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy;
- Assess progress toward achieving the 300 targets identified in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan;
- Develop programmatic ecosystem restoration indicators based on conceptual models, by building on the efforts of the ERP Indicators Workgroup, and following advice from the Science Program, the ERP Science Board, and the Independent Science Board.

Summary of Accomplishments: Notable accomplishments of the Ecosystem Restoration Program over the last four years include:

- 415 projects have received grants for $512 million
- 100,000 acres of habitat have been protected or restored
- 68 new or improved fish screens installed
- Splittail was removed from the list of threatened species
- Funded projects to support wildlife friendly agriculture on about 53,000 acres of farmland
- $30 million invested to develop and implement a strategy to build the scientific foundation for assessing and eventually reducing mercury-related risks in the Bay-Delta ecosystem

Ecosystem Restoration Program Budget Summary, in Millions $

Element Task	Appropriations for FY 00-04 CALFED	Local	Subtotal	Task Group	FY 00-04 Subtotals	Objectives Supported
Channel Dynamics and Sediment Transport			$ 47.01	Channel/Sediment/ Floodplain	51.53	
Floodplain and Bypasses			$ 4.52			
Ecosystem Water and Sediment Quality			39.60	Ecosystem Water Quality	39.60	
Fish Screens and Passage			$ 112.48	Fish Screens and Passage	112.42	
Natural Flow Regimes			$ 9.86	Flows	18.06	
Environmental Water Management			$ 8.21			
Restoration of Multiple Habitats			$ 126.94	Habitats	278.38	
Planning Local Watershed Stewardship			$ 18.68			
Uplands and Wildlife-Friendly Agriculture			$ 45.90			
Riparian Habitat			$ 24.82			
Shallow-Water Tidal and Marsh Habitat			$ 62.05			
Nonnative Invasive Species			$ 5.15	Nonnative	5.15	
Monitoring Fishery Assessment			$ 9.64	Science, Management, & Oversight/Coordination	29.21	
Environmental Education			$ 7.76			
Research Special-Status Species			$ 11.80			
Subtotal - Ecosystem Restoration			**$ 534.41**			

Contributes to water supply reliability objectives

Contributes to ecosystem objectives

Contributes to water quality objectives